



KEYSTONE RANCHES, INC.

33 Balsam Dr. Miles City, MT 59301

SENATE JOURNAL

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Jim Peterson (R) SD 15
Montana Senate
Box 200500
Helena, MT 59260-0500

February 20th, 2013

Friend Jim Peterson,

Congratulations on your efforts to combat or, eliminate the "Dark Money" in elections.

The very last minute defamation type posters, mailing, TV, & radio ads, etc., etc., posted and promulgated by unknowing and unseen entities are like fouls in any sport.

An illegal helmet to helmet hit in football, a "dusting off" of a batter in baseball or, "high-sticking" in hockey all carry penalties and possible ejection. Basically they are an attack on defenseless opponents. Rules are administered by the appropriate governing body.

Currently no governing body exists to enforce rules of conduct in the election arena. That, in turn, would protect well-meaning candidates from fouls perpetuated by "Dark Money". Slurs, inaccuracies and near libelous statements, all timed too late for making accurate and timely rebuttals possible. Such a governing body to regulate and penalize fouls in politics is probably "pie in the sky". But, clarification and transparency as to the source of "Dark Money" would be a good start toward alleviating a festering situation. As Justice Louis Brandeis said "Sunlight is the best disinfectant".

My son who is aficionado on state politics is of the opinion that disallowing any use of 501C4 funds for advertising three weeks prior to an election might be a promising course of action in eliminating "Dark Money" in both general and primary elections.

I am not sure that a limit on giving for election purposes serves any great purpose just let the donors be identified whether they be large or small.

Congratulations again, on your efforts towards solving a distasteful electoral conundrum.

Cordially yours,

Bill A

William E. Almy